

The Ballarat Naturalist

July 2013



Fungi foray in Blackwood

Led by Les Hanrahan



A small group of FNCB meet at Garden St Erth, Blackwood and were joined by a few visitors from Bendigo and the local area. The fungi this season are not as spectacular as they have been because of the dry autumn. There was abundant variety of small species but a limited number of larger colourful ones. Members were equipped for the day with their new well-illustrated fungi foldouts. The fungi spotted behind Garden St. Erth and, after lunch, across the road past the second carpark are described in the accompanying table. The common names describe well what we saw for many of the fungi, e.g. Baby Belly Buttons.

Photo: *Marasmiellus affixus* Little stinker

Although it was the beginning of winter the sun shone most of the day. Not that we felt much of its warmth as our first path took us deep into a valley of the creek behind Garden St Erth. Even the birds were in scarce supply though during the day we saw Wedge-tailed Eagle, Brown Thornbill, Fairy Wren, Grey Fantail and a Sittella hopping up and down a tree.

Flowers, as to be expected in winter, were in short supply. There were many Common Heath plants

Photo: *Mycena epipterygia* Yellow legs





Photo: *Ascocoryne sarcoides* Purple jelly discs

We did not examine many of the big trees but did notice many *Olearia Argophylla* with their hairy silver-backed leaves in the gully. Some of this genus can develop a lignotuber base (like Mallee trees) hundreds of years old with a number of stems. Elaine attempted to rid the bush of holly trees but it was a lost cause as it was widespread throughout the area.

Photo: *Calocera sunensis* Pretty horn



Photo: *Trametes vesicolor* Rainbow fungus

Les continues to be a great source of knowledge of fungi but even so, there were a few fungi left unnamed on this excursion.

Much of the bush is new forest as it was an important goldmining area from which 2 tons of gold was extracted from the famous Simmon's Reef. Trees would have been cut down for various uses. One very deep shaft was able to be safely viewed as it was carefully fenced in.

Fran Hanrahan

Photos supplied by Carol Hall & Val Hocking

Fungi List Blackwood Exc June 2013

Genus	Common name	Description
Agaricus aff.silvaticus	Wood Agaric	
Agaricus xanthocephala	Yellow-stainer Agaric	
Amanita muscaria	Fly Agaric	Large
Amillaria luteobubalina	Honey fungus	Yellow
Ascocoryne sarcoides	Purple jelly discs	In wood in wet forest
Artomyces austropiperatus	Peppery coral fungus	Peppery taste
Bisporella citrina		Yellow discs on wood
Boletus erythropus	Bolete	Reddish, large pored
Cladonia chlorophaea?	Cup Lichen	Light green
Calocera sinensis	Pretty horn	Coral fungi
Clitocybe clytocyboides	Funnel cap	
Collybia eucalyptorum		
Coprinellus disseminatus	Fairy bonnets	
Cortinarius austrocinnibarinus		
Cortinarius austroveneta	Green skinhead	Green cap
Cortinarius rotundisporus	Elegant blue webcap	
Cortinarius sinapicolor	Slimy yellow Cortinar	
Crepidotus sp.	Brown shelf fungus	
Crepidotus sp.	White shelf fungus	
Galerina hypnorum	Moss Galerina	
Gymnophilus junonius	Giant gold cap	
Heterotextus peziziformis	Jelly bells	On logs
Hypholoma australe	Brick tuft	
Hypholoma brunneum	Brown tuft	
Hypholoma fasciculare	Sulphur tuft	
Laccaria sp.		
Lactarius deliciosus	Saffron milk-cap	Exotic
Lactarius eucalypti	A milk-cap	
Macrotyphula juncea	Fairy hair	Tall white stems
Marasmiellus affixus	Little stinker	Strong smell
Marasmius elegans	Velvet Marasmius	Two toned stem

Morganella pyriforme	Puff-balls	Pear-shaped Puff-balls
Mucronella pendula	Spear heads	Icicles-like on log end
Mycena albidofusca	White-crowned Mycena	
Mycena cystidiosa	Tall Mycena	
Mycena epipterygia	Yellow legs	Yellow-stemmed
Mycena interrupta	Pixies Parasols	Blue
Mycena nargan	Nargan's Bonnet	Black, white spots
Peziza sp.	Cup Fungi	
Postia pelliculosa	Furry punk	Furry top, on trees
Psathyrella echinata	Spiny psathyrella	Cap with spiny edge
Psilocybe subaeruginosa		Blue-staining
Rhodocollybia butyracea	Buttery Collybia	
Rickenella fibula	Little Pin	On moss
Russula clelandii		Pink stem
		Exotic Red top, white gills & stem
Russula integra		gills & stem
Russula persanguinea		& stem
Sclerodema sp.	Earthball	split open
Stereum illudens	Purplish Stereum	
Trametes vesicolor	Rainbow fungi	On logs , dead wood
Tremella fuciformis	White jelly fungi	
	Burgundy wood	
Tubaria rufofulva	Tubaria	On logs, red
Xeromphalina leonina	Baby belly-buttons	Small, yellow on log

Special General Meeting to consider club constitution

(See May Newsletter for details)

*Consumer Affairs requires our club to decide its new constitution by November 2013 so, as **required a Special General Meeting will be held prior to the normal meeting in August** to consider the adoption of the Model Rules. To adopt the Model rules a Special Resolution must be passed by at least 75% of members present.*

Namibia and South Africa

Speakers: Jan & Rod Orr, Bendigo FNC

In August 2012 Rod & Jan joined a Friends group from the Sydney Botanical Gardens to visit Namibia and South Africa for 3-4 weeks. They concentrated on wild flowers and botanical gardens, but also had a chance to see some of the wildlife on safari. The trip was led by Peter Weston, a botanist from the Sydney Herbarium.

Flying from Sydney to Johannesburg via the Great Circle route surprised members as they flew over the Southern Ocean complete with icebergs! On arrival in Windhoek, Namibia's capital, they found a fascinating outdoor exhibition of meteorites which had fallen near Gibeon.

The Namibian desert resembled a moonscape, the fine material having been eroded by wind leaving bare rocks. Springbok and ostrich were seen but the prime interest was *Welwitschia mirabilis*, an ancient plant adapted to desert life by absorbing moisture from the air and fogs which are typical of this area. The plant has only two leaves which continue to grow throughout its life. The male plant has cones. On to Walvis Bay where flamingos were a highlight and then the first encounter with the Quiver Trees! At Sossusvlei the giant sand dunes tempted members to climb them, giving an extensive view over this sandy region. Ironically we saw shots of a "dead valley" where floods had killed the trees.

Visiting Namaqualand was clearly a highlight of this tour, where great spreads of wildflowers rivalled Western Australia's spring display. In Australia what we know as Cape Weed is known as Cape Daisy in its native land. Gazanias looked delightful here where they belong, and with many insects, including colourful caterpillars preying on them, they are not "weeds". Rod showed us a wonderful selection of blooms from this region, including many daisies.

En route to Cape Town, Cederberg Mountains were visited, and Stadsaal Caves. On Table Mountain, Hyrax perched on the rocks and watched the visitors, while a variety of Sunbirds proliferated where they occupy the same niche as our honeyeaters, pollinating the flowers. Kirstenbosch Gardens demonstrated the Gondwana link with many *Proteas* and *Euphorbias*. Members had a private tour of Stellenberg garden, a private property in the European style.

Driving through the "fynbos" ecological region members saw numerous species of *Erica* and some unusual *Proteas*. At the Karoo Botanical Gardens there was snow on the mountains. A collection of aloes showed that

they could adapt to cold and dry conditions. Rod showed us Cape Weaver birds near their accommodation at Knysna, and a giant Yellowwood probably 1000 years old. Baboons put in an appearance, as did the African Hoopoe. Addo Elephant Reserve was formerly a citrus-producing area where elephants were culled due to tree damage, but now thankfully these animals have increased in number.

Turning northwards to go on safari in the Motswari area, members saw lion, leopard, Nyala antelope, Red-billed Hornbill, Banded Mongoose, Burchells Zebra, White Rhino, Steenbok and Impala. After days of dry sunny weather, rain and fog appeared near the rainforests of Blyde River. A visit to the Lowveld Botanic Garden, the sight of Hippopotamuses in the river, and several species of *Clivea* were notable.

Knowledgeable members had serious discussions about taxonomy e.g. whether certain plants should be *Epacris* or *Erica*.

Rod rounded off his talk with a quick display of the wonderful variety of birds they had encountered, including the Hoopoes, Sunbirds, many raptors and weavers. It had clearly been a memorable tour, judging by Rod & Jan's enthusiasm.

Carol Hall.

60 Yrs Ago – from the Minutes of FNCB

June 1953

The June meeting was postponed to Friday night because of the regular night falling on Coronation Day.

An excursion to Lake Burrumbeet in search of Aboriginal artefacts was held the following day. At the next meeting several artefacts collected on the excursion were displayed.

July 1953

Mr Haase of The Field Naturalists Club Victoria displayed 100 excellent paintings of native orchids and birds, many of which he used for the purpose of lecturing to New Australians.

Specimens included a young Brown Snake and a White-winged chough nest.

Sunday July 7 Excursion to Canadian Area

Led by J Gregurke

Meeting as usual 9.30, or at Pryor Park at 9.45am to explore the area and northern part of Canadian Forest (CF)

Lunch 12 noon at Lake Esmond, Lal Lal St entrance

After lunch depart 1 pm to the cleared plantation areas & Canadian Ck gorge on southern edge of CF.

Friends of CC have been invited,

Excerpts from Club Meeting Minutes June 7, 2013

Reports

Treasurer's Report: Opening balance \$6728.68 Income \$692.7

Expenses \$1209.33 Closing balance: \$6212.07.

John Gregurke reported on a Canadian Corridor field walk – 7 members participated. Some new plants noted and large quantities of dumped rubbish. A public forum is to be held next Wednesday June 12 at Mt Clear. Brolga count last month netted 947. Two brolgas reported killed at Leonards Hill wind turbines.

General Business

Wombat fungi brochures have arrived. \$4 each. Members to collect and pay.

Notice of John Arnott, RBG Cranbourne to speak at Buninyong Gardens 6th July fundraiser (same speaker & topic as for our November meeting)

Art Gallery of Ballarat exhibition *The Art of Science* begins June 1st.

Yarrowee Tree Planting Sun 18th August 10am-2pm.

Reminder about August's Special Resolution to adopt Model Rules.

Show & Tell/Field Reports

Mid-May: Jane Marriott saw 300 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos over Creswick cemetery.

Jan Orr (Bendigo FNC) reports fluctuating numbers 2-10 of Freckled Duck at Kennington Reservoir.

May 11th John Gregurke in Clunes Forest saw Tawny-crowned and White-fronted Honeyeaters. On 14th he saw a Southern Boobook at Nth Gardens Wetland; at Mt Cole on the 26th a pair of Powerful Owls with prey Ringtail Possum.

Mid-May - Peter Billing reported on the large number of Long-billed Corellas feeding around Lake Wendouree.

CALENDAR 2013

July

Fri 5 Climate change-revisiting the science -Dr L Wilson, BREAZE

Sun 7 Excursion -Canadian Corridor John Gregurke, Club member

June 1 - July21 *Art of Science Art Exhibition, Ballarat Art Gallery*

August

Fri 2 Creatures of the night - Tanyo Loos, Naturalist & ecologist

***Sat 3** *Excursion Serendip Sanctuary, Lara, Carol Hall, Club member*

Committee

PresidentPeter Dalman

Vice –President.....Fran Hanrahan

SecretaryCarol Hall

TreasurerLes Hanrahan

Elspeth Swan

John Mildren

Claire Dalman

Val Hocking

John Gregurke

Correspondence: PO Box 328W, Ballarat West, 3350

Email:Secretary:- Carol Hall,

Editors: Fran Hanrahan

Nina Netherway,

Website: <http://fieldnatballarat.wordpress.com>

Club email: ballaratfnc@gmail.com

Meetings are held at the Primary Industries Training Centre, cnr Gillies and Gregory Sts, on the first Friday of the month at 7.30pm..

Excursions: Leave from the carpark at the Primary Industries Training Centre, cnr Gillies and Gregory Sts. at 9.30 am, unless otherwise advised.

A monthly publication of the Field Naturalists' Club of Ballarat Inc.

Incorporation # A0014919P ABN 13 150 403 135